CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing alerts to sources of media content, comprising:

    establishing a profile corresponding to topics of interest;

    automatically scanning available media sources, selecting a source and extracting from the selected media source, identifying information characterizing the content of the source;

    comparing the identifying information to the profile and if a match is found, indicating the media source as available for access;

    automatically scanning available media sources for a next source of media content and extracting identifying information from said next source and comparing the identifying information from said next source to the profile and if a match is found, indicating said next media source as available for access.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the scanning and comparing steps are repeated until all available media sources are scanned.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the available sources of media include television broadcasts.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the available sources of media include television broadcasts and radio broadcasts.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the available sources of media include television broadcasts and website information.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying information of video sources is extracted by extracting closed caption information from the video signal source.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying information is extracted using voice to text conversion processing.

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8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying information is extracted using screen text extraction.

9.   The method of claim 1, wherein identifying information is extracted using voice pattern or face pattern recognition.

10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the sources of media content are made available at a first location and a user at a second location remote from the first location accesses the available sources of media content.

11.   The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the available media sources are recorded or downloaded and reviewed at a later time.

12.   The method of claim 1, wherein the profile includes topics of interest.

13.   The method of claim 1, wherein the profile includes topics of interest selected from the group consisting of sports, weather and traffic.

14.   The method of claim 1, comprising the step of activating an alert available indicator when a profile match is made.

15.   The method of claim 14, wherein the profile contains a plurality of topics of interest and different topics are associated with different alert levels and the different alert levels are associated with different types of alert available indicators.

16.   The method of claim 14, wherein the indicator is an audible indicators.

17.   The method of claim 14, wherein the indicator is a visible indicator.

18.   A system for creating media alerts, comprising:

    a receiver device constructed to receive and scan signals containing media content from multiple sources;

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a storage device capable of receiving and storing user defined alert profile information;

a processor linked to the receiver and constructed to extract identifying information from a plurality of scanned signals containing media content;

a comparing device constructed to compare the extracted identifying information to the profile and when a match is detected, make the signal containing the media content available for review.

19.   The system of claim 18, comprising an alert indicator which is activated when a match is detected.

20.   The system of claim 18, wherein the receiver, processor and comparing device are constructed and arranged to scan through all media sources scannable by the receiver to compile a subset of available media sources for review, that match the profile.

21.   The system of claim 18, including a computer constructed to receive user defined profile information and compare that information to the identifying information to identify matches.

22.   The system of claim 18, wherein the receiver is constructed to receive television signals.

23.   The system of claim 18, wherein the receiver comprises a first tuner constructed to process television signals and the system further comprises a second tuner constructed to assist in the display of either media available for review or other media.

24.   The system of claim 18 comprising a tuner for processing radio signals.

25.   The system of claim 18, comprising a web crawler.

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26.   The system of claim 18, wherein the receiver, storage device, processor and comparing device are housed within a television set.

27.   The system of claim 18, wherein the receiver, storage device, processor and comparing device are operatively coupled to a television set.

28.   The system of claim 18, wherein the storage device is constructed and arranged to receive the profile information from a keyboard.

29.   The system of claim 18, wherein the storage device is constructed and arranged to receive the profile information from a signal generated when a user performs selected mouse clicks.

30.   The system of claim 18, wherein the storage device contains a plurality of selectable predefined alert profiles.